REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 19-29 are in the case. Claims 1-3 and 19-23 stand previously rejected. Claims 24-29 are new. Reconsideration of these claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. The requisite fee authorization for the extension of time and RCE are submitted herewith.

Claims 1 and 20 each have been amended to specify that the finely divided boehmite has an average particle size in the range of about 0.1 to about 120 microns. Support for this amendment may be found in the Specification at least at paragraph 0011. Support for new claims 24-28 may be found in the Specification at least at paragraph 0013. Support for new claim 29 may be found in the Specification at least at paragraph 0010 and the Examples. It is believed that no additional fee is due for the new claims presented herein, but authorization is being given via EFS-web for deposit account charge in the event that a fee is actually due. None of the claims, as herein amended, are taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Submitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner is a Declaration under 37 CFR section 1.132 by René Herbiet, one of the co-inventors on the present application. This Declaration establishes, from published information, that the morphology of a preferred boehmite material of the present invention (Martoxal BN-2) is non-fibrous.

It is believed that the case is in condition for allowance, and notice to this effect would be appreciated. If, however, any matters remain in requiring further consideration, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that such matters can be discussed, and if possible, promptly resolved.

Please continue to address correspondence in this application to Mr. Spielman at the address of record.

Respectfully submitted,

/ R. Andrew Patty II /
R. Andrew Patty II
Reg. No. 38,992
SIEBERTH & PATTY, L.L.C.
4703 Bluebonnet Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Telephone: (225) 291-4600
Facsimile: (225) 291-4606